GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:706
ANSWERED ON:18.07.2002
MODERNISATION OF MIG AIRCRAFT
SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI;SUNDER LAL TIWARI

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to modernise MIG aircraft in view of their frequent crashes;

(b) whether a team of Russian experts had visited India;

(c) if so, the reports of the Russian experts and also the reports of experts of the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited in this regard;

(d) the target fixed in regard to modernisation of the MIG fleet; and

(e) the reasons for refitting of R-25 engines in these aircraft?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) MiG-21 Bis aircraft (the latest variant of the MiG-21 series) are being upgraded to enhance their operational capability.The upgrade plan is not related to aircraft accidents.

(b) No, Sir, not in the context of the upgrade project.

(c) Not applicable.

(d) A total of 125 MiG-21 Bis aircraft are to be upgraded by the financial year 2004-2005.

(e) The R-25 engines are being retained as these have been found suitable for the upgraded aircraft.